

# **HB1240\_Rose\_FAV**

Uploaded by: April Rose

Position: FAV

**APRIL ROSE**  
*Legislative District 5*  
Carroll and Fredrick Counties

ASSISTANT MINORITY LEADER

Economic Matters Committee

*Subcommittees*

Banking, Consumer Protection,  
and Commercial Law

Property and Casualty Insurance

Unemployment Insurance

*Chair*

Carroll County House Delegation



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES  
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

March 6, 2024

**Support House Bill 1240**

**Fossil Fuel-Powered Appliances and Vehicles – Installation, Use, and Fees**

House Environment and Transportation Committee

Chair Korman, Vice Chair Boyce and Committee Members,

This bill will prohibit the Department of the Environment, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the governing body of a county or municipality from prohibiting the use or installation of natural gas and propane-powered appliances that are new construction or undergoing a remodel or renovation of at least 50 percent of the square footage of the home.

In addition, the Motor Vehicle Administration may not collect any additional fees or charges for the title or registration of a gas-powered vehicle that is based on the use of gasoline.

I am concerned that the aggressive goals addressing climate change in Maryland could have an adverse effect on communities. Older neighborhoods - such as Randallstown and Catonsville to name two - were constructed in the late 1960s and are almost 100 percent serviced by natural gas. In the rural areas, many homes are serviced by propane.

Requiring a switch to full electrification will be expensive and especially difficult for families on a fixed income. Some estimates of the purchase and installation of a new high efficiency heat pump can cost as much as \$17,000. Additional concerns would be the rapid strain on our power grid and would result in higher costs to the ratepayers. Twenty-four other states have already adopted similar legislation to ensure homes and businesses can continue to access energy sources that work best for them.

We also need to recognize that the rush to all electric vehicles is not taking into consideration how the cars and trucks are performing and problems that have come to light. A recent study by AAA indicates EV's experience a significant reduction in range when loaded with heavy cargo. The Ford F-150 Lightning range decreased by 24.5 percent when carrying 1,400 pounds of sandbags, stopping just short of its maximum capacity. We also saw during this most recent winter the problems with very cold temperatures on the EV.

The EPA is considering slowing down requirements for automakers to sell more electric vehicles as are GM and Ford. Notably, Toyota has adopted "Electrification Diversified" recognizing that the way forward should include affordable and reasonable options. They will include battery electric, hybrids, plug in hybrids and fuel cell offerings. They state they can produce 93 hybrids for the cost of producing one EV with much less impact using our natural resources. As the CEO of Toyota stated recently in Forbes, customers - not regulations or politics - should make the decision on what path to rely on.

In conclusion, I believe there is room in our state to include energy choice, preserve our grid and protect ratepayers.

I respectfully request a favorable report.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "April Rose". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Delegate April Rose  
District 5, Carroll and Frederick counties

# **BGE\_ECM\_SUPP\_House Bill 1240 -Fossil Fuel-Powered**

Uploaded by: Brittany Jones

Position: FAV



AN EXELON COMPANY

## Position Statement

Support  
Economic Matters  
3/6/2024

### **House Bill 1240 – Fossil Fuel-Powered Appliances and Vehicles – Installation, Use, and Fees**

Baltimore Gas and Electric Company (BGE) supports *House Bill 1240 – Fossil Fuel-Powered Appliances and Vehicles – Installation, Use, and Fees*. House Bill 1240 would prohibit the Department of the Environment, the Department of Housing and Community Development, and the governing body of a county or municipality from prohibiting the use or installation of natural gas- and propane-powered appliances in certain homes. As a delivery provider of natural gas to more than 700,000 customers, BGE supports this bill because it preserves customer choice, protects the ability to provide diverse energy systems, which enhances energy resiliency and affordability for customers, and will help the state achieve its greenhouse gas reduction requirements in a practical and efficient manner by being able to use all tools at our disposal.

The BGE territory serves 54% of Maryland’s residential gas customers and 55% of commercial and industrial gas customers. These customers represent nearly half of statewide natural gas use in Maryland’s buildings and industry. The demand for natural gas remains strong amongst Marylanders. In 2023, 86% of new residential communities elected natural gas when it was within proximity. From May 2015 through April 2022, approximately 3,700 residential customers voluntarily converted their homes to natural gas. In just over the first six months of 2023, BGE customers converted 59 appliances to natural gas (heating, hot water, dryer, and stove). When surveyed about why they chose to make these conversions, more than half of customers said they wanted to save money on utilities. The State must set forth energy policy with affordability and choice in mind while remaining committed to meeting the goals of the Climate Solutions Now Act.

Further, BGE engaged Energy + Environmental Economics (E3) to analyze viable pathways to achieve the State’s net zero goals and identify potential implications for BGE’s customers and service area. E3 analyzed three key decarbonization scenario pathways that built on prior work E3 performed for the State: 1) Limited Gas; 2) Hybrid; and 3) Diverse. Each of the pathways could achieve Maryland’s net-zero GHG emission targets and all require significant electrification – including building and transportation electrification. The most important finding by E3 is that the Hybrid and Diverse pathways, both of which leverage the combined capabilities of the electric and gas delivery systems, achieve Maryland’s goals at *lower* cost and *less* risk for customers and the State’s economy compared to the Limited Gas pathway. These

BGE, headquartered in Baltimore, is Maryland’s largest gas and electric utility, delivering power to more than 1.3 million electric customers and more than 700,000 natural gas customers in central Maryland. The company’s approximately 3,400 employees are committed to the safe and reliable delivery of gas and electricity, as well as enhanced energy management, conservation, environmental stewardship and community assistance. BGE is a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), the nation’s largest energy delivery company.

Charles Washington | Brittany Jones | Guy Andes | Dytonia Reed | 410.269.5281

Integrated Energy System (IES) pathways also deliver greater resiliency, fuel diversity, more realistic constructability, and less disruption to customers and the State's economy<sup>1</sup>. And again, the Integrated Energy System pathways meet Maryland's goal of achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2045.

BGE respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1240 so that we may continue to diversify our energy grid while meeting the Climate Solutions Now Act goals.

BGE, headquartered in Baltimore, is Maryland's largest gas and electric utility, delivering power to more than 1.3 million electric customers and more than 700,000 natural gas customers in central Maryland. The company's approximately 3,400 employees are committed to the safe and reliable delivery of gas and electricity, as well as enhanced energy management, conservation, environmental stewardship and community assistance. BGE is a subsidiary of Exelon Corporation (NYSE: EXC), the nation's largest energy delivery company.

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# **MD 2024 HB 1240 Columbia Gas Testimony Final.pdf**

Uploaded by: Carville Collins

Position: FAV



**SUPPORT – House Bill 1240**  
**Fossil Fuel-Powered Appliances and Vehicles**  
**House Environment and Transportation Committee**

Columbia Gas of Maryland, Inc., a natural gas utility providing energy to more than 34,000 customers in Maryland’s western counties of Allegany, Garrett and Washington, supports House Bill 1240.

The legislation is designed to ensure Maryland homes and businesses can continue to utilize the fuel source of their choice to cook their meals and heat their homes. Columbia is informed, 24 states have already adopted similar legislation to ensure homes and businesses can continue to access the energy source that best matches their lifestyle. Columbia understands similar legislation was passed with bipartisan support.

Columbia is further informed approximately 100 localities across the country and three states have taken efforts to prohibit or severely restrict the direct use of natural gas particularly in new construction. These bans have taken many forms either via ordinance or building code and many times have been adopted with little public awareness or input. These bans deprive consumers of choice, increase costs, threaten energy reliability and resilience, and significantly impact economic development.

Maryland natural gas consumers enjoy natural gas because it is affordable and reliable when needed the most. Recent polling conducted on behalf of the American Gas Association (AGA) found Americans oppose banning the use of natural gas by a two-to-one margin. It is notable Columbia sees continued interest in using natural gas in our service territory. Since 2016, the share of homes using natural gas for space heat has grown from 35% to 40%, compared to a decline in homes using electricity for heat from 38% to 36%. And although the number of our customers has been increasing, natural gas emissions have been declining. From 2005 through 2022, our total number of customers has grown by 9.7%, yet our customers’ emissions have declined by 5.7%.

The natural gas system is strong and reliable, particularly during times of peak demand. Efforts to prohibit natural gas in Maryland would result in both immediate and long-term cost increases that would serve to decimate energy affordability in the state. Based on company analysis, the average monthly lifetime costs to heat a home with natural gas is \$93 - \$101 (depending on efficiency of furnace) compared to electricity, which is \$113 - \$199 (depending on efficiency of heat pump). This includes high efficiency heat pumps.

Columbia estimates it would cost \$1.2 BILLION to build electric generation to replace just the firm capacity for our customers in Garrett, Allegany and Washington counties. That translates to a cost of approximately \$35,000 per customer and does not include the cost of new transmission and distribution facilities, which is expected to be substantial, or the customer’s cost of additional equipment to electrify their homes. The purchase and installation of a new high efficiency electric heat pump can cost as much as \$17,000. All in, each residential customer could be expected to pay over \$50,000 in incremental costs.



Continuing to utilize the existing natural gas system is an affordable option for Maryland homes and businesses and a pathway for energy reliability. The preservation of natural gas gives residents the ability to stay warm on the coldest days of the year – like we experienced in mid-January 2024. On an energy equivalent basis, the gas system provides three times the energy as that of the electric sector during peak winter months.

Overreliance on any one source of energy can jeopardize overall energy system reliability and resilience and ultimately result in greater costs for all consumers. The natural gas distribution system is an incredibly reliable energy delivery system with unplanned outages affecting only about 1 in 800 natural gas customers per year. By comparison, electric distribution systems have an average of one outage per year per customer.

Banning natural gas use would also have a unique and detrimental effect on restaurants. In fact, nine out of ten restaurateurs who use natural gas believe bans would negatively impact their business and the quality of food they serve.

Preserving consumer energy options also ensures Maryland can take full advantage of a wide range of new and innovative technologies that can utilize the gas distribution system. The greater use of renewable natural gas and hydrogen can reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Maryland, but efforts seeking to ban natural gas infrastructure and hook ups would severely limit Maryland's ability to be innovative and reduce GHG emissions.

Columbia Gas of Maryland believes the requirements of House Bill 1240 are appropriately and reasonably crafted policies related to Maryland's energy policies and supports the legislation.

March 6, 2024

Contact:

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Contact:

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# Washington Gas - HB 1240 - Support\_Final.pdf

Uploaded by: Manuel Geraldo

Position: FAV



1000 Maine Avenue, SW | Suite 700 | Washington, DC 20024 | [www.washingtongas.com](http://www.washingtongas.com)

**COMMITTEE:** ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORTATION

**TESTIMONY ON:** HB 1240 FOSSIL FUEL-POWERED APPLIANCES AND VEHICLES - INSTALLATION, USE, AND FEES

**POSITION:** SUPPORT

**HEARING DATE:** MARCH 6, 2024

Washington Gas respectfully submits this statement in **SUPPORT** of **House Bill 1240, Fossil Fuel-Powered Appliances and Vehicles - Installation, Use, and Fees.**

Washington Gas Light Company (“the Company”) provides safe, reliable natural gas service to more than 1.2 million customers in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. Washington Gas has been providing energy to residential, commercial, government, and industrial customers for more than 175 years, and currently serves more than 500,000 Maryland customers in Montgomery, Prince George’s, Charles, St. Mary’s, Frederick, and Calvert Counties. The Company employs over 400 people within Maryland, including contractors, plumbers, union workers, and other skilled tradespeople. We strive to improve the quality of life in our communities by maintaining a diverse workforce, working with suppliers that represent and reflect the communities we serve, and giving back through our charitable contributions and employee volunteer activities. The Company, together with other natural gas distribution utilities, are responsible for delivering the primary source of heat to Maryland residential energy consumers, serving approximately one half of all Maryland households while providing critical energy services to residential, commercial, and industrial customers at one-third the cost of electricity on a per unit basis.<sup>1</sup>

House Bill 1240 protects energy choice in Maryland. Every individual in Maryland should have the right to use natural gas in their homes. Completely removing sources of energy from the market will do nothing to help Maryland residents heat their homes and will only reduce the reliability of our electric grid. Today, fossil fuel resources comprise over 55% of PJM’s generation mix,<sup>2</sup> with

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<sup>1</sup> DOE. [Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products: Representative Average Unit Costs of Energy](#) (Aug. 28, 2023).

<sup>2</sup> PJM. [Markets & Operations](#) (last accessed Mar. 4, 2024).

fossil generation often being higher during periods of peak demand,<sup>3</sup> and PJM has documented challenges in interconnecting new renewable energy resources.<sup>4</sup> The State's high reliance on fossil-fuel heavy electricity from PJM underlines the fact that electrification is not guaranteed to reduce GHG emissions. Direct use of natural gas in a home or building is much more efficient than using gas to generate electricity, which makes the forced installation of all electric heating sources an even more unwise policy.

Gas appliances are at the center Maryland households. They power our stoves, furnaces, water heaters, and fireplaces. Nearly 189 million Americans use natural gas because it is affordable, reliable, and safe.<sup>5</sup>

The Energy Information Administration's (EIA) Winter Fuels Outlook for 2023-2024 estimates that it will cost, on average, 76% more to heat homes this winter using electricity compared to natural gas (U.S. Average: \$1,063 vs \$601). In the Northeast, it is estimated to cost 92% more this winter (Northeast Average: \$1,465 vs. \$761).<sup>6</sup> Additionally, widespread electrification will increase electric rates overall due to the increased need for infrastructure investments that are needed to support high load growth. A recent New York Times article stated that "power bills have been rising nationwide, and in Baltimore, electricity rates have increased almost 30 percent over the last decade, according to data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics."<sup>7</sup>

Additional benefits and cost savings resulting from the reliability of the State's natural gas infrastructure would be lost through widespread electrification. Less than 1% of customers are expected to experience a natural gas outage in any given year, while electric distribution systems see an average of one (1) outage per year per customer.<sup>8</sup> The high reliability of the natural gas system provides significant cost savings on peak demand days.

Across the country, there has been a growing trend of local jurisdictions targeting natural gas as an energy resource by enacting policies that impede or prohibit its use or seek to limit investments and development in natural gas infrastructure. For example, Berkely, California's proposed ban on natural gas hookups in new construction was struck down in federal court.<sup>9</sup> This is bad policy, and laws like this make little environmental sense and even less economic sense and jeopardize Maryland's energy security. Instead, House Bill 1240 would allow for the Company to further explore lower carbon fuels and other GHG emission abatement strategies for the gas system that can provide emissions benefits without being limited by a ban on natural gas appliances. 24 other states have proactively passed laws to prevent local governments from banning natural gas connections.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> PJM. [Winter Operations of the PJM Grid: December 1, 2020 – February 28, 2021](#) (Apr. 7, 2021).

<sup>4</sup> PJM. [Energy Transition in PJM: Resource Retirements, Replacements & Risks](#) (Feb. 24, 2023).

<sup>5</sup> AGA. [Natural Gas is Essential](#)

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Energy Information Administration. [Winter Fuels Outlook 2023-24](#) (Jan. 9, 2024).

<sup>7</sup> New York Times. [As Utility Bills Rise, Low-Income Americans Struggle for Access to Clean Energy - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#) (Jan. 11, 2024).

<sup>8</sup> AGA. [Natural Gas is Reliable](#)

<sup>9</sup> SmartCitiesDive. [Federal court won't reconsider decision to overturn Berkeley, California, natural gas ban](#) (Jan. 2, 2024).

<sup>10</sup> S&P. [Half of US states are on pace to prohibit local gas bans](#) (Jun. 21, 2023).

We believe that prohibiting the use or installation of natural gas will have serious negative impacts on households, restaurants, and communities across Maryland. Maryland consumers benefit from lower costs when multiple energy options are available in the marketplace. Policies that prohibit natural gas in homes promote higher cost electric alternatives without taking cost or consumer choice into consideration. HB 1240 works to ensure that Maryland consumers have a choice in meeting their energy needs, and the freedom to choose the energy source that delivers warmth in the winter at the most affordable cost for their family.

Washington Gas looks forward to working with the Committee on this legislation. For the above reasons Washington Gas respectfully requests a favorable report on House Bill 1240.

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Contact:

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**HB 1240\_Chesapeake Utilities\_Fav (03-04-24).pdf**

Uploaded by: Steve Baccino

Position: FAV



March 6, 2024

**HOUSE ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**  
**HB 1240 – Fossil Fuel-Powered Appliances and Vehicles – Installation, Use and Fees**

**Statement in Support**

Chesapeake Utilities Corporation (“Chesapeake Utilities”) **SUPPORTS** HB 1240 which, among other things, would prohibit the Maryland Department of the Environment (“MDE”); the Department of Housing and Community Development (“DHCD”) and any local or county government from prohibiting the use or installation of natural gas-powered appliances in new homes or in existing homes undergoing a renovation of at least 50% of the square footage of the home. If passed, the bill would take effect October 1, 2024.

Chesapeake Utilities operates three natural gas local distribution companies that serve approximately 32,000 customers on Maryland’s Eastern Shore in Caroline, Cecil, Dorchester, Somerset, Wicomico, and Worcester Counties. These public utilities are regulated by the Maryland Public Service Commission and have provided in the coldest months of the year safe, reliable, resilient, and affordable service in the State for decades. As a company, Chesapeake Utilities serves as a positive and informed resource in the ongoing energy and climate change discussions. Moreover, Chesapeake Utilities is committed to continuing to be a critical part of the solution as Maryland addresses greenhouse gas emissions.

**HB 1240 protects the ability of Maryland utility customers to have a choice in the appliances they use and ensures that Maryland does not put all of its energy use eggs in one basket.**

Approximately 1.3 million households and businesses in Maryland use gas. From 2014 through 2022, the number of gas customers grew at approximately one percent per year. In 2022, Maryland customers purchased about 168 million dekatherms of gas. Between 2014 and 2022, the total amount of gas purchased by Maryland customers grew by an average of 0.52 percent per year. This increase in total gas purchases is consistent with the fact that the number of gas customers is growing. However, it is important to note gas purchases are rising more slowly than the number of customers. In other words, gas usage per gas customer is *declining* slightly. For example, for the three largest gas utilities in Maryland, Baltimore Gas & Electric, Washington Gas, and Columbia MD, average residential throughput has decreased by 4.15 percent since 2014. The fact that the number of gas customers is increasing, but their average gas usage is declining can be explained by energy efficiency (e.g., more efficient appliances or improved insulation in buildings) and conservation efforts by customers (e.g., using a programmable thermostat). The data is clear, an increased number of Maryland residents continue to choose natural gas, purchase energy efficient appliances and adjust behaviors to conserve energy. We respectfully suggest that MDE, DHCD or any local government should not prohibit the use of a proven and affordable energy resource. Transitioning from dirtier fuels to natural gas has been a main contributor to reducing GHG emissions in Maryland and nationwide. Maryland should



implement an all-of-the-above approach to reducing GHG emissions. Accordingly, MDE, DHCD and local governments should not be artificially restricting energy choice for Marylanders.

**Why is HB 1240 necessary?** On December 28, 2023, MDE released its Climate Pollution Reduction Plan (“MDE Plan”). The MDE Plan states that MDE plans to implement a new ban on natural gas furnaces and water heaters by regulation and the MDE Plan refers to this appliance ban as a “Zero-Emission Heat Equipment Standard” (ZEHES).<sup>1</sup> See MDE Plan at 40 (“MDE is responsible for developing, adopting, and implementing regulations to enact and enforce ZEHES in Maryland. MDE will initiate a rulemaking process in 2024 to propose draft regulations based on existing statutory authority before 2025.”). Respectfully, the General Assembly, not just MDE, should have a say in protecting energy choice for Maryland customers.

**Banning natural gas appliances will artificially increase costs for existing gas customers.** When gas companies add new customers, their fixed costs are spread over a larger customer base (keeping costs down for all customers). The MDE ZEHES would cut-off the ability of gas companies to add new customers, causing existing customers to pay more and more for their service. This unprecedented and unchecked rate inflation will continue until existing customers can no longer afford to maintain their service. Of course, remaining natural gas customers -- especially those who happen to be low and middle-income -- will be the most adversely impacted due to these artificially created costs increases.

**Prohibiting gas bans encourages emerging renewable technologies.** The development of, and transition to, emerging renewable technologies such as renewable natural gas (“RNG”) and hydrogen, to offset “traditional” natural gas, are a way to lower GHG emissions. Chesapeake Utilities currently owns a Maryland company, Planet Found Energy Development, that is developing a process to turn chicken litter into organic fertilizer and RNG, also referred to as biomethane or biogas. RNG is a fossil-free natural gas that is produced from naturally occurring sources such as food waste, manure, and other animal/plant-base materials to create biogas. The biogas is upgraded and cleaned to a quality similar to traditional natural gas and can be injected into a public utility’s natural gas distribution system to offset the use of traditional natural gas. RNG can be used just like natural gas and is clean, reliable, and environmentally friendly and can also be used as a transportation fuel for vehicles. In addition, Chesapeake Utilities also completed a successful test that blended hydrogen with a gas supply to power a combined heat and power unit. The State should support the use of these emerging renewable technologies that have been proven effective here and in other states to offset greenhouse gas emissions.

On behalf of Chesapeake Utilities Corporation, and our thousands of employees and their

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<sup>1</sup> MDE argues that the ZEHES proposed in the MDE Plan does not ban gas stoves. However, banning gas furnaces (space heating) and water heaters eliminates the major source of gas demand for a building and will make it impossible for customers (and gas companies) to afford the cost to bring a gas line to a home in return for the small amount of gas used by a gas stove. Accordingly, the MDE ZEHES plan effectively and indirectly bans all natural gas appliances, including gas stoves.





families who contribute every day in the communities where they live, work and serve, we respectfully request a favorable vote on HB 1240.

Sincerely,

Chesapeake Utilities Corporation  
Steve Baccino, Governmental Affairs Director  
Contact: sbaccino@chpk.com

**HB1240.pdf**

Uploaded by: Suzanne Price

Position: FAV

HB1240 -Thank you Republicans for standing up to the unsustainable and unaffordable insanity that the left is pushing by taking away our gas stoves, gas leaf blowers, gas fueled vehicles, and nickeling and dime-ing us to death. Climate change is a money hustle. WE all know the weather is constantly changing, the world has been through an ice-age and will go through another. WE all know that the SUN and earth's magnetic field controls weather, NOT man or anything man-made. THAT is SCIENCE.

All of this sustainability that the democrats are shoving down our throats, PLEASE know WE, the citizens of Maryland didn't ask for it. Who is behind this? The Republicans need to expose the Agenda21, WEF, 2040 Plans and more... Did you know because of D lunatics in Annapolis we are under a Plan2040? And so it Takoma Park... LET'S STOP the democrats from bankrupting Maryland and the middle class, thank you for supporting and fighting back to protect the people of Maryland who voted for you.

ALSO PLEASE SUPPORT HB0192 and Signature Verification #HB0142 #HB0202, Please ask @VAatterbeary of the Ways & Means Committee to present these 3 bills to the floor that she is holding onto. Thank you!

Suzanne Price  
AACo, MD

# **HB 1240 Fossil Fuel-Powered Appliances and Vehicle**

Uploaded by: Cait Kerr

Position: UNF

**Wednesday, March 6, 2024**

**TO:** Marc Korman, Chair of the House Environment and Transportation Committee, and Committee Members

**FROM:** Mariana Rosales, The Nature Conservancy, Director of Climate; Cait Kerr, The Nature Conservancy, State Policy Manager.

**POSITION:** Oppose HB 1240 Fossil Fuel-Powered Appliances and Vehicles - Installation, Use, and Fees.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) opposes HB 1240 offered by Delegate Rose. HB 1240 seeks to keep Maryland in a business-as-usual fossil fuel economy, making it impossible to forbid using or installing natural gas– and propane–powered appliances, and also prohibiting the Motor Vehicle Administration from charging or collecting fees for the title of gasoline–powered appliances and vehicles.

HB 1240 would be detrimental to Maryland’s commitments to address climate change. The Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 set a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 60% from 2006 levels by 2031 and achieving net-zero statewide greenhouse gas emissions by 2045. To achieve this, we need to change our current paths of consumption.

The largest sources of emissions in our state come from buildings, transportation, and energy. Three sectors that need urgent change. The administration needs tools to promote this change. There are new, cost-effective technologies and products on the market that would render a cleaner and Maryland for all; transitioning to these not only brings us closer to

Appliances powered by fossil fuels significantly contribute to indoor air pollution. Burning natural gas can cause or worsen respiratory illnesses, such as asthma. Nitrogen dioxide exposure from burning fossil fuels is a particular danger for children and can increase the odds of children developing respiratory illnesses by twenty percent. Long-term exposure to nitrogen dioxide has been linked to chronic lung disease and increased mortality. Unburned natural gas can also leak from appliances, and this contains benzene, which is known to be a carcinogen. Gas-powered vehicles also emit harmful air pollutants, like particulate matter, that are detrimental to pulmonary and cardiovascular health, and nitrogen dioxide.

HB 1240 would deprive the administration of valuable tools to implement our climate vision. Transitioning to a net-zero economy in our state should be intentional, practical, and methodical. We should also be prioritizing Marylanders’ health and well-being.

Maryland is experiencing more frequent extreme weather events with increasing intensity, including heavy rainfall, high tides, and record heat, causing significant damage to infrastructure, homes, and natural habitats. Our existing cities, towns, rural communities, and supporting critical infrastructure are not equipped to handle the increased stress imposed by rapidly worsening impacts of climate change. We need to act quickly, and HB 1240 would make the transition to a net-zero economy even more challenging.

**Therefore, we urge an unfavorable report on HB 1240.**

# **HB 1240 Breiner Written Testimony Fossil Fuel-Powe**

Uploaded by: Joyce Breiner

Position: UNF



Testimony to the House Environment and Transportation Committee  
HB 1240 Fossil Fuel-Powered Appliances and Vehicles - Installation, Use, and Fees  
**Position: Unfavorable**

February 19, 2024

The Honorable Marc Korman, Chair  
Room 251, House Office Building, Annapolis, MD 21401

Honorable Chair Korman and Members of the House Environment and Transportation Committee:

I have been an Electric Vehicle (EV) owner since 2011 having experience with five EV makes/models. My household has also been on-site renewable energy generated electricity net positive for over a decade that also provides 100% of the electric 'fuel' for the EVs' regional miles.

My understanding is that HB 1240 prohibits the prohibition of fossil fuel-powered gas appliances, and prohibits additional title or registration fees on internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles "that is based on the vehicle's use of gasoline". I also understand that the Transportation Revenue and Infrastructure Needs (TRAIN) commission was established to look into issues such as this and other questions but their recommendation report will not be delivered until the end of 2024. Meanwhile the multi-billion dollar shortfall in the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF) looms.

I am strongly opposed to this bill because it does nothing to ensure a cleaner, safer, healthier environment nor address the existential threat that is the Climate Crisis. In fact, it does just the opposite. More than 100 years ago, this bill would be the equivalent of coming to the rescue of candlelight, coal fired furnaces, wood fired stoves and horse drawn carriages over the very fossil fuel-powered technology this bill intends to 'protect'. Gas explosions that level homes are becoming routine news events yet we know there is a better way forward.

I also strongly opposed to this bill because it proactively prevents work best left to the TRAIN commission. HB 1240 does nothing to address the TTF issue in the short term nor allows time for the TRAIN commission complete their analysis and make recommendations based on real data. In fact, it sounds like an end run around any conclusions the TRAIN commission may present.

Let's not look backward and legislate, as does this bill, in favor of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century technologies over 21<sup>st</sup> century tech that has clearly better outcomes for future generations.

Respectfully,

Joyce K. Breiner, CC-P®



**HB1240 UNF.pdf**

Uploaded by: Landon Fahrig

Position: UNF





# Maryland

## Energy Administration

**TO:** Chair Wilson, Vice Chair Crosby, and Members of the Economic Matters Committee  
**FROM:** MEA  
**SUBJECT:** HB 1240 - Fossil Fuel-Powered Appliances and Vehicles - Installation, Use, and Fees  
**DATE:** March 6, 2024

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### **MEA Position: UNFAVORABLE**

This bill seeks to prohibit various agencies and governing bodies from prohibiting, taxing, or limiting the use of fossil fuels, including propane. Generally, these bans on bans counter the broader intent of the greenhouse gas pollution requirements of the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 and Governor Moore’s 100 percent clean energy requirement for the state.

The bill would prohibit the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DCHD), and a county or a municipality from prohibiting the use or installation of natural gas– and propane–powered appliances in new construction or large renovations. Besides usurping the rights of counties and municipalities to enact their own rules, the bill also contravenes the intent of state decarbonization policy. In *The Building Energy Transition Implementation Task Force Final Report* (January 24, 2024), p. 15 for example, the MDE and MEA recommend that state investments and spending be redirected to support decarbonization instead of supporting new natural gas equipment or infrastructure. As the Report noted, investments in new equipment made now will lock that equipment in for 15 to 30 years. The Report did not recommend a ban on fossil fuels, but rather “a reprioritization of where scarce government appropriations is directed.” Id. While there is no ban on fossil fuels planned or pending at the state level, there is a clear intent to embrace policies that promote fuel switching and electrification.

The bill would also prohibit the Motor Vehicle Administration from charging a fee based on a vehicle’s use of gasoline. Such a prohibition would run counter to statewide goals of electric vehicle deployment and use of incentives to get there.

Therefore, the Maryland Energy Administration urges the committee to issue an **unfavorable report**.

Our sincere thanks for your consideration of this testimony. For questions or additional information, please contact Landon Fahrig, Legislative Liaison, directly ([landon.fahrig@maryland.gov](mailto:landon.fahrig@maryland.gov), 410.931.1537).

# **HB 1240 MDE OPP.pdf**

Uploaded by: Les Knapp

Position: UNF



**The Maryland Department of the Environment  
Secretary Serena McIlwain**

***House Bill 1240***

***Fossil Fuel-Powered Appliances and Vehicles – Installation, Use, and Fees***

**Position:** Oppose  
**Committee:** Environment and Transportation  
**Date:** March 06, 2024  
**From:** Hadley Anthony

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The Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) **OPPOSES** HB 1240.

**Bill Summary**

HB 1240 would bar MDE, as well as other state agencies, counties, or municipalities, from prohibiting the use or installation of natural gas- and propane-powered appliances in a home that is under construction or undergoing a 50% remodel. The bill also prohibits the Motor Vehicle Administration from charging or collecting fees for a certificate of title or vehicle registration based on a vehicle's use of gasoline.

**Position Rationale**

The Climate Solutions Now Act (CSNA) established a statewide goal of a 60% reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from 2006 levels by 2031 and net zero by 2045. Switching to efficient, zero-emissions heating equipment and zero-emission vehicles are two of many ways to accomplish those goals. Requiring phase out of fossil-fueled equipment in buildings, where practicable, and encouraging a faster adoption rate of zero-emission vehicles are important components of this electrification strategy. Maryland's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan identifies charging an extra fee for gasoline powered vehicles as a potential strategy to fund and encourage the transition to zero-emission vehicles.

Direct use of fossil fuels in the building sector accounted for 16% of Maryland's GHG emissions in 2020. This includes emissions from burning fuel for space heating, water heating, cooking, and industrial heating processes. Buildings also use almost all the electricity consumed in the state, so improving energy efficiency to reduce electricity consumption and fuel use is a key strategy for addressing climate change and reducing energy costs for consumers. The transportation sector is the largest source of GHG emissions generated in the State. In order to achieve the CSNA goals, reductions in gasoline and diesel use are critical. Fees related to gasoline vehicles would help fund the transition to electric vehicles.

The CSNA established statutory GHG reduction goals for Maryland that are consistent with reduction pathways scientists determine are necessary to avoid the worst impacts of climate change. The provisions of HB 1240 run counter to those pathways, and limit the tools available to the State to fund and implement the strategies necessary to meet our statewide climate goals.

Accordingly, MDE urges an **UNFAVORABLE** report for HB 1240.

**2024-03-06 HB1240 Testimony - UNF.pdf**

Uploaded by: Valory Fox

Position: UNF

Attn: House Committee for Environment and Transportation

March 6th 2024

Testimony for HB1240

**Position: UNFAVORABLE**

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Dear Chair Korman and Members of the Committee,

Respectful of your time and the sheer absurdity of this bill, I will be brief. In the war of humanity against climate change, this bill firmly takes the side of climate change.

(and fossil fuel companies)

- Valory Fox